



Part 2: Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

*God's light shines through Mary's story, revealing this truth:
God's words are good—no matter the disruption they
cause—because God's heart is love.*

- Light in the Darkness – this sermon series is looking at different characters in the nativity story such as Joseph & Mary, the Shepherds, the Magi, and even King Herod. We will look at their backstory and see how the incarnation of God through Jesus shines light into each of their stories. Likewise, each of us have a backstory that is different, deep, and complex...and yet the light of Jesus shines into each of our stories.
- The Backstory: historical context of the Greco-Roman world. A world of suffering, fear, of inequity, and bondage.
 - Vulnerability of Women

“We find that in the Greco-Roman world of late antiquity women were at a great disadvantage. As infants they were far more likely to be cast out as unwanted. As young girls or teenagers they faced the risk of sexual abuse, if not outright prostitution; as grown women they were under the control of their husbands, who might abuse them, neglect them, or even abandon them; and in their older years, especially if widowed, they faced the prospects of poverty. *“Unimaginable – What our World would be like without Christianity”* Jeremiah Johnston

- God's Words are Good
- Because God's Heart is Love

“When (God) takes the initiative, it is always a matter of love, love which will care for us and take us up into his saving purposes. Mary is, to that extent, the supreme example of what always happens when God is at work by grace through human beings. God's power from the outside, and the indwelling Spirit within, together result in things being done which would have been unthinkable any other way.”

Tom Wright

- How is God shining the light of His word into our story?

Is there a promise He is inviting us to trust?

Is there a command He is urging us to obey?

Is there a challenge we find in His word:

Something that we don't agree with or that rubs us the wrong way?

Something that tempts us to doubt the goodness of God?

Let's come to His light, shining through Mary's story: God's words are good because God's heart is love. May He give us grace to not be afraid, to trust His words because we trust His heart. May He give us grace to say, *“May it be to me according to your word.”* Be Born in Me.